

**Council on Postsecondary Education
September 18, 2005**

P-16 Council Update

At its September 6 meeting, the P-16 Council reviewed several policy issues identified and developed at the Annual National Association of System Heads State Academic Leaders P-16 Summer Institute held in Annapolis in July. Chief among the issues identified as requiring state-level, cross-agency policy development and coordination are:

1. Establishing a more rigorous high school curriculum.
2. Providing an adequate supply of qualified educators to teach a more rigorous curriculum.
3. Developing a consistent system for high school-college dual enrollment.
4. Creating an integrated P-16 data system.
5. Ensuring that students have affordable access to quality education through college.

At the NASH Institute, Kentucky fielded a team of state, school district, and institutional representatives from the P-12, postsecondary, and community sectors. Dr. Keith Bird, chancellor of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, gave a plenary presentation on the important role played by community colleges in providing access to postsecondary education and to critical work skills. Dr. Gary Brockway, provost and vice president for academic affairs of Murray State University, spoke on MuSU's successful efforts to increase the persistence and graduation rates of its students.

Dr. Dorie Combs, member of the Kentucky Board of Education and associate professor of curriculum and instruction at Eastern Kentucky University, chairs the state P-16 Council this year.